

5 January 2021

INITIATIVE BY HANAHOLMEN ON CIVILIAN CRISIS PREPAREDNESS AND PROTECTION

JOINT GREETING BY PRIME MINISTERS MARIN AND LÖFVEN

The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to reminding us all about the importance of international cooperation: the prerequisites for finding solutions to global challenges are dialogue, solidarity, and cooperation. The pandemic has also proved, once again, the very close links between Finland and Sweden and the degree of close interaction between our societies.

Our strong mutual ties and operational environments, similar in many ways, create a firm foundation for the further development of active and needs-based cooperation, always responding to global changes and contributing to creating them ourselves. The key issues in terms of the safety of our societies, related to our ability to prepare for and manage various crises, have been highlighted even more than before in the past year. On this topic, we intend to deepen our cooperation even further. Our citizens' expectations are similar: they want more cooperation and more common solutions.

Today, we are already cooperating at the practical and concrete level in terms of crisis preparedness in a wide range of forums and with several partners. The European Union provides us with channels to seek common European solutions. Within the framework of the Nordic Council, Nordic parliamentarians have, in turn, drawn attention to the overall safety of society in the form of the special strategy they have prepared. This theme will be one of the key focus areas of Finland's presidency of the Nordic Council in 2021. We are convinced that all these parallel areas of momentum will lead us towards our common goal of stability, safety, and functionality of societies even in crisis situations.

The initiative of Hanaholmen – the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre on deepening the cooperation between Finland and Sweden in civil crisis preparedness and protection is an excellent contribution to the further development of our current cooperation. The key words of the initiative include 'trust', 'well-functioning cooperation networks' and 'practical interaction', with the aim of strengthening the preconditions for coordinated action in preparing for and responding to crises. This objective can be reached by strengthening contacts between key persons and supporting deeper mutual understanding of the structures, practices and decision making related to crisis management. The starting points include a broad-based social approach and long-term effectiveness.

Our cooperation is in great demand today – perhaps more than ever – and the principle is clear: together we can be more, and we can perform better.

Sanna Marin
Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven
Prime Minister